University of Massachusetts Amherst
Graduate Council of the Faculty Senate
Sarah Poissant, Chair
2023 - 2024

Noon, February 14, 2024
Goessman 250
Zoom Meeting:
https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96777999264

Meeting Minutes
23 in Attendance

15 Members of the Graduate Council in Attendance

Braden, Tom	Burke, Mary Ellen
Caicedo, Ana	DeConto, Rob
Hess, Traci	Jesse, Alexandra
Katz, Neil	McGregor, Andrew
Mitra, Gaurav	Poissant, Sarah
Ramsey-Musolf, Darrel	Seven, Memnun
Tachtiris, Corine	Urla, Jacqueline
Vandenberg, Laura	

8 Members of the Graduate School in Attendance

Jakob, Beth	Kelder, Nicole
Mellin, Susan	Passonno, Shana
Pope, Denise	Rathod, Bharat
Woodmansee, Kate	Yunker, Johanna

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Sarah Poissant called the meeting to order at 12:12pm, followed by a round of introductions.

II. Approval of December 13, 2023 meeting minutes

Associate Dean Beth Jakob asked for a minor correction in the minutes regarding the Cultural Awareness Mentor training on page 3 under New Business. CAM training is 8 hours long, not 6 hours. There was a motion to approve the minutes as corrected with 9 votes to approve and 1 abstention.

III. Comments by Graduate Dean/Graduate Council Chair/Faculty Senate Secretary

Dean Jacqueline Urla announced that Three Minute Thesis is starting next week and there are a lot of great contenders. Students present their thesis/dissertation in 3 minutes to a great panel of judges. Dean Urla shared an invite to attend the finals on Friday, March 1 at 2pm in Old Chapel.

IV. Old Business

None.

V. New Business

- Presentation About Culturally Responsive Mentor Training (Beth Jakob)
- Consider Endorsement of Culturally Responsive Mentor Training

Associate Dean Beth Jakob made a presentation about Culturally Aware Mentor (CAM) Training and answered council members' follow-up questions. Council members tabled the discussion about endorsing CAM as a best practice until the next meeting, so that Beth can provide members with written resources to review before a formal vote is taken.

VI. ASCC Committee Report

ASCC Traci Hess reported the Committee met last week to review the following proposals. There were minor requests for improvements. Proposals will be voted on in groups.

Convert an Experimental Course to a Permanent Course

- COMM 723 Networks in Digital Information Infrastructure 10/13/2023 (ref #10917)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10917

- CHEM-ENG 518 Green Chemical Engineering 11/28/2023 (ref #11160)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11160

ASCC conditionally approved the following proposals.

- ASTRON 660 Astrophysics of Fluids and Spacetime 04/23/2023 (ref #10297)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10297

- GERMAN 680 Literatur und Migration: Texte und Kontexte 06/07/2023 (ref #10440)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10440

A motion was made to pass the experimental to permanent course proposals, 12 voted, so moved.

Create a New Course

- SCH-MGMT 634 Strategic Compensation 11/07/2023 (ref #11083)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11083

ASCC conditionally approved the following proposals.

- E&C-ENG 640 Embedded Security and Privacy 11/15/2023 (ref #11120)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11120

- E&C-ENG 540 Embedded Security and Privacy 11/15/2023 (ref #11121)
  https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11121

- SCH-MGMT 695 Workforce Planning, Recruiting, and Selection 11/07/2023 (ref #11084)

https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11084

- SCH-MGMT 666 Labor and Employment Law for Human Resources 11/07/2023 (ref #11085) https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11085

Create a Major Course Revision

ASCC conditionally approved the following proposals.

- MANAGMNT 334 - Strategic Compensation 11/07/2023 (ref #11075) – *Change to MGMT 534 – Strategic Compensation* https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11075

- MANAGMNT 335 - Workforce Planning, Recruiting and Selection 11/07/2023 (ref #11076) – *Change to MGMT 535 – Workforce Planning, Recruiting and Selection* https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/11076

The Graduate Council agreed on tabling the above group of related New Course and Major Course Revision proposals until their next meeting on March 13. Graduate Council seeks further clarification on co-listing course numbers in the meantime (ref #s 11120, 11121, 11083, 11084, 11085, 11075, 11076). Kate Woodmansee will check with Patrick Sullivan to see if he has any concerns. Sarah Poissant and Traci Hess have reached out to Tony Paik.

Revise a Degree Program

- Revise a Degree Program: Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies Education (PhD) 05/05/2023 (ref #10342) – *Children, Families, and Schools PhD Program* https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10342

- Revise a Degree Program: Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies Education (PhD) 05/05/2023 (ref #10343) – *Language, Literacy, and Culture PhD Program* https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10343

- Revise a Degree Program: Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies Education (PhD) 05/09/2023 (ref #10349) – *Math, Science, Learning Technologies PhD Program* https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10349

- Revise a Degree Program: Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies Education (PhD) 05/09/2023 (ref #10350) – *Teacher Education School Improvement PhD Program* https://cps.provost.umass.edu/umacps/proposal/downloadReport/10350

A motion was made for the four degree program revisions, seconded, 12 approved, so moved.

VII. Comments from Administrative Officers and Others, as appropriate

1. Graduate School Administrators – Jackie reminded the Council about the Three Minute Thesis Finals on Fri, March 1 at 2-3:30pm at Old Chapel.
2. GSS/Student Members – None.

VIII. Announcements

Sarah Poissant reported the Academic Matters Council has been working on syllabi requirements from an undergraduate perspective. In advance of the next Graduate Council meeting, Sarah will connect with AMC's Chair, Allison Butler. Sarah has received initial feedback and believes the two Councils are closely aligned.

Laura Vandenberg shared feedback that came from the discussion about syllabi requirements in the Faculty Senate meeting last week:

1. Questions around requirements hinging on academic freedom.
2. Concerns about syllabus length. Canvas can be used for course modules (not SPIRE), and outliers who don't use LMS can have longer syllabi.

Sarah also shared some feedback from Allison Butler around semantics. For example, instead of the suggested pronoun policy, she's called it a pronoun statement. Neither council requires it but recommends it. Sarah wants to focus on what is most important and helpful to students. The goal is to have the review process become standardized. Concerns were also brought up about the grading scale and the ability to curve grades. Graduate Council will reserve time to have more in-depth conversations about the syllabus next month.

IX. Adjournment by 1:30pm or sooner

Sarah, Jackie, Traci, and Kate agreed to connect after the meeting to schedule the next Ad-Hoc Graduate Certificate Committee meeting. Sarah adjourned the Graduate Council meeting at 1:27pm.